



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Emergency Management

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### Disaster Field Office

7800 Carousel Lane • Richmond, VA 23294

**FEMA-1502-DR-VA**

Commonwealth Situation Report #7

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

#### 1. Situation

A severe storm system moved into the Commonwealth of Virginia on November 18 and 19, 2003 dumping up to 4.28 inches of rain in 12 hours resulting in flash floods through the southwestern part of Virginia. Two young children in Buchanan County died when their home was washed away by a flash flood. Preliminary assessments indicated the most severe impacts were to single-family residences, manufactured homes and private access bridges. Several apartment buildings with major damage were also identified, as well as damage to sewer pipes and private wells.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a State of Emergency in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Pulaski, Rockbridge, Smyth and Tazewell, and the cities of Galax and Radford on November 20. After evaluations by Preliminary Damage Assessment teams, Governor Warner requested a federal disaster declaration on November 26. On December 9, a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1502-DR-VA) was granted to Virginia for Individual Assistance in the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Giles, Smyth and Tazewell, and the city of Galax. Effective January 9, the US Homeland Security advisory level and the Virginia threat advisory level were lowered from orange (high) to yellow (elevated).

#### 2. Current State/Federal Priorities and Objectives

- ☐ Ensure priority handling of individual disaster victims.
- ☐ Manage public expectations through targeted media releases and appropriate staffing of public meetings and support all recovery program elements.
- ☐ **Complete** requirements for transitioning back to VDEM's Trade Court office.

#### 3. Recovery Activities

##### A. Human Services

##### i. Teleregistrations

- ☐ New teleregistrations since last reporting period amount to **47** for a total of **662** registrations at COB **January 26**. See Attachment 1 for teleregistrations by jurisdictions.
- ☐ **The registration deadline is Monday, February 9.**
- ☐ Individuals can register immediately for FEMA assistance by calling (800) 621-FEMA or TTY (800) 462-7585 for the hearing and speech impaired. Lines are open daily from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

“Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities”

ii. **Small Business Administration** (as of COB 1/26/04)

	Issued	Received	#Approved	\$ Approved	Declined	Withdrawn	Pending
Home	254	28	10	\$139,200	12	3	3
Business	59	6	1	\$36,700	3	2	0
EIDL	0	6	1	\$300	0	5	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$176,200</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>

iii. **Individuals and Households Program (IHP)**

(a) **Housing**

- ☐ Temporary housing assistance disbursed to date – **\$820,300.19**.
- ☐ More than 76 homes destroyed, 149 homes with major damage, 255 with minor damage and 128 homes affected. Losses estimated are at \$10,283,389. More than 47 businesses were affected by the incident, including three destroyed. Estimated losses amount to \$2,681,000.

(b) **Other Needs Assistance**

Amount Referrals Approved:	<b>\$186,190.76</b>
Amount Referrals Disbursed:	<b>\$177,343.28</b>
Total Referrals Received:	<b>249</b>
Total Referrals Approved:	<b>76</b>
Total Referrals Ineligible:	<b>122</b>
Total Referrals Withdrawn:	<b>10</b>
Total Referrals Pending	<b>41</b>

iv. **Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

- ☐ *One application for Disaster Unemployment Assistance was received and one application was denied or withdrawn.* The deadline was January 15.

v. **Mental Health**

- ☐ The Individual Assistance Officer *attended* the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administrators conference on January 21-23 in Washington, D.C.

**B. Mitigation**

- ☐ No new issues.

**C. Legislative Liaison**

- ☐ Responded to an inquiry from Delegate Charles Carrico's office regarding a Smyth County constituent who experienced damage to their primary vehicle and has is an apparent critical need for immediate assistance. This family has a 2½ year-old daughter that recently had surgery and accessible transportation borders on a life-threatening necessity. This matter is still pending.
- ☐ Responded to an inquiry from Delegate Carrico's office involving constituent(s) in Carroll County, a non-designated locality, who suffered real property damage in the floods on November 19. The county administrator is currently assessing the extent of damage in the county. This matter is still pending.

**D. Public Affairs**

- ☐ Issued Press Releases on:
  - ☐ *“Less Than Two Weeks Left To Apply for Disaster Assistance.”*

**E. Disaster Recovery Task Forces**

- ☐ No new issues.

**F. State Coordinating Officer**

- ☐ Colestock, Camp, and senior staff *participated* in the Disaster Response and Recovery Operations course via videoconference on January 20-21.

**G. Miscellaneous Information**

- ☐ Transitional Office Space is currently waiting for approval of the lease.
- ☐ *The Disaster Field Office was closed on Monday, January 26 due to inclement weather.*
- ☐ *This situation report is the last one issued from the Disaster Field Office. Future situation reports might be issued from VDEM's Trade Court office.*
- ☐ *The Disaster Field Office will close Thursday, January 29.*

**Authority of Michael M. Cline, State Coordinator**

/s/ Brett Burdick, Deputy State Coordinating Officer

**Attachment 1 – Teleregistrations**  
As of COB *January 26*

<b>Designated Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Daily On 1/26</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Bland	0	57
Buchanan	1	56
Galax (city)	0	30
Giles	1	58
Smyth	1	82
Tazewell	6	362
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>645</b>

<b>Undesignated Jurisdictions</b>	<b>Daily On 1/26</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
Carroll	0	1
Craig	0	1
Hanover	0	1
Henry	0	1
Lexington (City)	0	1
Newport News (City)	0	1
Prince Edward	0	1
Radford	0	1
Russell	0	1
San Juan (Municipio)	0	1
Spotsylvania	0	1
Virginia Beach (City)	0	1
Wythe	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>